

Appln No. 10/750,501
Amdt date November 13, 2006
Reply to Office action of May 11, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-22 and 25-29 now remain pending in this application. Applicant has amended claims 1, 13 and 22 and has added new claims 28 and 29. The amendments and new claims find full support in the original specification, claims and drawings. No new matter is presented. Applicant submits that all of pending claims 1-22 and 25-29 are in condition for allowance and therefore requests a timely indication of allowance.

In the Final Rejection dated May 11, 2006 and Advisory Action dated October 19, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 8-16, 19-22 and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by one of Stewart, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,325,797), Koblish (U.S. Patent No. 6,745,080) or Bowe, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,771,996). However, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 13 and 22 to recite that the ablation assembly further comprises a generally straight distal region extending substantially tangentially from the generally circular curve. Independent claim 25 also recites this feature. None of Stewart, Koblish and Bowe teach or suggest such a feature. Although the Examiner asserts that the term "tangential" renders the claims indefinite, such a term is understood by those of ordinary skill in the art to indicate the orientation of the distal region relative to the generally circular curve. In addition, Figure 5 of the present application clearly shows a generally straight distal region extending substantially *tangentially* from the generally circular curve. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 13, 22 and 25, and all claims dependent therefrom, including claims 2-12, 14-21, 26 and 27, are allowable over Stewart, Koblish and Bowe.

New independent claim 28 recites that the catheter further comprises a safety wire for securing the tip electrode to the ablation assembly, the safety wire having a distal end attached in the tip electrode. Stewart, Koblish and Bowe also fail to teach or suggest this feature. Accordingly, new claim 28, and claim 29 which depends therefrom, are also allowable over Stewart, Koblish and Bowe.

The Examiner also rejected claims 1-12, 17-20, 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Stewart in view of Bowe. However, as noted above, neither Stewart nor

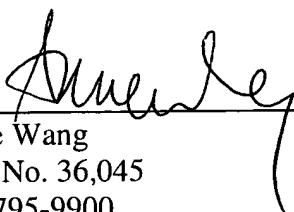
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Bowe teach or suggest the catheters recited in independent claims 1, 13, 22 and 25. Accordingly, these independent claims, and all claims depending therefrom, including claims 2-12, 17-20, 26 and 27, are allowable over Stewart and Bowe.

Similarly, the combination of Stewart and Bowe fail to teach or suggests that the catheter further comprises a safety wire for securing the tip electrode to the ablation assembly, the safety wire having a distal end attached in the tip electrode. Accordingly, new claim 28, and claim 29, which depends therefrom, are also allowable over the combination of Stewart and Bowe.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all of pending claims 1-22 and 25-29 are in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests a timely indication of allowance. However, if there are any remaining issues that can be addressed by telephone, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact Applicant's counsel at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
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